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Most of the information in this file concerns the Timputs-Kurtatchi area, and the village of Petats which is on an island off the west coast of Buka. There has been some question as to whether the cultures of the Buka area are fundamentally the same, as stated by Blackwood. For instance, Douglas Oliver believes that, in fact, there are several distinct linguistic and cultural subareas present. For this reason, care should be exercised in using the materials for cross-cultural comparisons. In general this file, while deficient in materials pertaining to language and human biology, contains basic data on most phases of the culture.

The file consists of five sources, including one translation. The major source, written by Beatrice Blackwood, a British cultural anthropologist, is the standard ethnography. It contains full material on the life cycle, social relations, economics, religion and the food quest. Two other articles by Blackwood contain data on folk tales (3: Blackwood) and on the treatment of the sick (5: Blackwood). The article by Thomas (4: Thomas) gives some information on the village of Petats, but is mostly concerned with drum signalling and the boys' puberty ceremony on Pororan, a small island on the west coast of Buka. The monograph by Parkinson (2: Parkinson), a translation from the German, contains general information especially good on material culture, on the northern Bougainville coastal area which includes the

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Timputs-Kurtatchi area. This source also contains much information on groups outside this area as well. Therefore, Parkinson's material should be assessed carefully before using it as exemplary of the cultures of the Timputs-Kurtatchi area. --Analyst/